

## Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10  
SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
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HA-05 AID-05 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OIC-02 SES-02 SAA-01  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 213805

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT:WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM AND RACIAL  
DISCRIMINATION

1. A PERSISTENT THEME OF WORLD CONFERENCE APPEARS TO  
BE CRITICISM OF WHAT IS DESCRIBED AS ALARMING AND RAPIDLY  
EXPANDING ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL, MILITARY, AND NUCLEAR  
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA. CLEARLY,  
RADICAL ARABS AND OTHER LIKE-MINDED PARTICIPANTS ARE  
CREATING ILLUSION OF SO-CALLED TEL AVIV-PRETORIA AXIS IN  
ORDER TO MAKE RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER MEASURES CRITICAL OF  
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ISRAEL MORE ATTRACTIVE TO AFRICANS. SUCH ASSERTION SHOULD  
NOT BE PERMITTED TO GO UNCHALLENGED.

2. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH WESTERN AND OTHER CON-  
FERENCE PARTICIPANTS, US MISSION SHOULD NOTE THAT ISRAEL,  
LIKE ALL OTHER UN MEMBERS, HAS ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO  
ADHERE TO SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 418 (1977) WHICH

IMPOSES A MANDATORY ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA.  
NEITHER IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL WATCH DOG COMMITTEE  
ESTABLISHED TO OVERSEE ADHERENCE TO THE ARMS EMBARGO NOR

ELSEWHERE HAVE THERE BEEN CREDIBLE REPORTS OF VIOLATIONS  
OF THIS SANCTION BY ISRAEL OR OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

3. IN REFERRING TO REPORTS OF BURGEONING ISRAELI-SOUTH  
AFRICAN ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP, AND PARTICULARLY IN  
CAUCUS WITH WEST EUROPEAN PARTICIPANTS IN CONFERENCE,  
YOU SHOULD REFER TO FOLLOWING UNCLASSIFIED TRADE STATIS-  
TICS: IN 1973 SOUTH AFRICA'S EXPORTS TO ISRAEL WERE

6/10 TH'S OF 1 PERCENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN TOTAL EXPORTS.  
IN 1974 THIS FIGURE DECLINED TO 5/10 TH'S OF 1 PERCENT  
AND IN 1975 IT DECLINED FURTHER TO 4/10 TH'S OF 1 PER-  
CENT. DURING THE SAME PERIOD SOUTH AFRICAN IMPORTS  
FROM ISRAEL GREW FROM 2/10 TH'S OF 1 PERCENT OF TOTAL  
SOUTH AFRICAN IMPORTS IN 1973 TO 4/10 TH'S OF 1 PERCENT  
IN 1974 AND TO SLIGHTLY OVER 4/10 TH'S OF 1 PERCENT IN  
1975. VIEWING THE PICTURE THROUGH AN ISRAELI PRISM,  
ISRAELI EXPORTS TO SOUTH AFRICA IN 1973 WERE 1.6 PERCENT  
OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASING TO 1.8 PERCENT IN 1974 AND  
DROPPING TO 1.1 PERCENT IN 1975. AT THE SAME TIME  
ISRAELI IMPORTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA IN 1973 WERE 6/10 TH'S  
OF 1 PERCENT OF TOTAL IMPORTS DROPPING TO SLIGHTLY LESS  
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THAN 6/10 TH'S OF 1 PERCENT IN 1974 AND RISING TO  
ALMOST 1 PERCENT IN 1975. AT NO TIME HAVE SOUTH AFRICAN  
COMMERCIAL EXPORTS TO ISRAEL EXCEEDED DOLS. 31 MILLION  
IN VALUE NOR HAVE THEIR COMMERCIAL IMPORTS FROM ISRAEL  
EXCEEDED DOLS. 21 MILLION. THE TOTAL ISRAEL-SOUTH  
AFRICAN MARKET IN 1977 (EXCLUDING DIAMONDS WHICH ARE  
SHIPPED TO ISRAEL FOR RE-EXPORT) WAS ONLY DOLS. 71  
MILLION. THESE ARE RELATIVELY MINISCULE FIGURES IN TERMS  
BOTH OF WORLD TRADE AND OF THE TRADE PATTERNS OF ISRAEL  
AND SOUTH AFRICA. MOREOVER, THE FLUCTUATING RATE OF  
TRADE DOES NOT SUPPORT THE CONTENTION THAT THE ISRAELI-  
SOUTH AFRICAN ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP IS GROW-  
ING, LET ALONE THAT ITS EXPANSION IS ALARMING. INDEED,  
A BRIEF LOOK AT THE ECONOMIES OF BOTH STATES WOULD  
SUGGEST THAT, RATHER THAN COMPLEMENTING ONE ANOTHER TO  
THE EXTENT POSSIBLE TO DEVELOP A SIZABLE TRADE RELATION-  
SHIP, THE TWO NATIONS ARE NATURAL COMPETITORS. BOTH HAVE HIGH IMPORT  
TARIFFS TO PROTECT LOCAL INDUSTRIES, BOTH HAVE VIGOROUS INDUSTRILIZA-  
TION PROGRAMS, AND BOTH COUNTRIES EXPORT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. THE  
DEPARTMENT FEELS THAT THERE COULD BE NO REASON OTHER THAN POLITICAL  
MOTIVES DIRECTED AGAINST ISRAEL FOR THE CONFERENCE OR  
ANY OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORUM TO SINGLE OUT ISRAEL FOR

TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA, WHEN WELL OVER 99 PERCENT OF  
SOUTH AFRICA'S COMMERCIAL RELATIONS ARE CONDUCTED WITH  
OTHER STATES. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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